

**Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for legal professional ethics in the UK**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 30th April 2026

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Goldsmith KC, Counsel, Fountain Court
- 9.05 **Assessing key developments for legal professional ethics in the UK**
Dr Jim Baxter, Professional Ethics Consultancy Team Leader, IDEA, The Ethics Centre, University of Leeds
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Approaches to tackling ethical challenges - policy direction, regulatory oversight, and effective practice**
the LSB's Professional Ethics and Rule of Law consultation for legal practice | transparency and accountability across firms, chambers and in-house teams | misconduct reporting and disciplinary procedures | the Law Society's ethical framework for in-house solicitors and managing organisational ethical pressures | professional independence and judgement across different practice settings | reform to Enforcement Regulations in the BSB Handbook | the Independent review of bullying, harassment and sexual harassment at the Bar | impact of mandatory anti-bullying and anti-harassment standards | implications of increased regulatory and public scrutiny | evolving Standards of Service requirements and unified national standards | support for practitioners and smaller firms adjusting to continuous ethics training | implementing culture change in legal organisations
Michael Bennett, Member, Taskforce on Business Ethics and the Legal Profession
Sybille Raphael, Joint Chief Executive, Protect
Senior representative, solicitor
Senior representative, barrister
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Implications of AI deployment for legal ethical practice**
Senior representative, technology
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Goldsmith KC, Counsel, Fountain Court
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Latest thinking on developing ethical legal workplace culture and workforce support**
handling non-disclosure agreements and mitigating SLAPP misuse | client confidentiality and public trust amid increased scrutiny | balancing client interests with wider professional duties | roles of leadership, incentives and management in achieving and sustaining ethical culture | equality, diversity and inclusion processes in practice | responsible advice in complex and sensitive cases | preventing and responding to bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct | misconduct reporting, disciplinary procedures, transparency and whistleblowing | priorities for legal ethics education and cross-sector collaboration | inclusive workplace cultures that can adapt to technological and regulatory change | supporting workforce sustainability, including in-house teams, junior practitioners and smaller organisations
John Buttanshaw, Partner, Operational Risk and Environment and Co-Head, ESG and Impact, Travers Smith
Senior representative, human resources
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, in-house counsel
- 11.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Next steps for oversight of legal professional ethics - regulatory frameworks and implications for firms**
Ewen Macleod, Director, Strategy, Policy and Insights, Bar Standards Board
Lucy Dennett, Director, Policy, The Law Society
Senior speaker confirmed from the Legal Services Board
- 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Legal Policy Forum